

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 03843 270924Z  
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15  
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 OMB-01 MCE-00 TRSE-00  
ACDA-12 AID-05 /079 W  
-----051336 271350Z /42

R 270831Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5906  
INFO SECDEF WASHDC//DSAA/ISA//  
CNO WASHDC//OP-63//  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECJ4/7-SA//  
AMEMBASSY MADRID

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 3843

E. O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MASS MO  
SUBJ: SEA SPARROW FOR ROYAL MOROCCAN NAVY

REF: A. AMEMBASSY RABAT 231510Z MAY 78 (RABAT 3046)  
B. JSMG MAAG MADRID 021830Z JAN 78 (NO 4920)  
C. JUSMAG MAAG MADRID 028135Z JUN 78 (NO 4920)  
D. STATE 100225Z JUN 78 (STATE 147876)

1. DURING A RECENT MEETING WITH CHMUSLO, CAPT AZIZ, CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS, ROYAL MOROCCAN NAVY (PLEASE PROTECT) REVEALED THAT THE CONTRACT FOR THE DESCUBIERTA CLASS CORVETTE BEING PURCHASED FROM SPAIN CALLS FOR A SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE SYSTEM USING AN 8 TUBE LAUNCHER AND THE SEA SPARROW MISSILE. FURTHER, ACCORDING TO CAPT AZIZ, SPANISH OFFICIALS NOW SEEM TO BE BACKING AWAY FROM THIS CONTRACT SPECIFICATION, IMPLYING UNOFFICIALLY THAT USG UNWILLING TO AUTHORIZE THE SEA SPARROW.

2. CAPT AZIZ WAS INFORMED THAT USG HAS NOT RECEIVED A REQUEST FROM THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GOM FOR  
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THE SEA SPARROW, AND CONSEQUENTLY NO DECISION HAS BEEN RENDERED BY USG IN THIS REGARD. IN ADDITION HE WAS INFORMED THAT IF GOM SHOULD DESIRE THE SEA SPARROW SYSTEM OR EVEN JUST THE MISSILE, A GOM REQUEST FOR LOA OR PRICE AND AVAILABILITY DATA SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE AMBASSADOR.

3. READING BETWEEN THE LINES OF REFTEL B RETRANSMITTED

BY THE DEPARTMENT, IT APPEARS THAT GOS IS INSTALLING (OR HAS INSTALLED) THE SEA SPARROW SYSTEM ON DESCUBIERTA CLASS CORVETTES, BUT THAT IT WILL NO LONGER BE DOING THIS WITH A SECOND SERIES OF CORVETTES, WHICH WILL INCLUDE THE ONE ORDERED BY GOM.

4. IT APPEARS THAT THIS HAS CAUSED SOME CONFUSION BETWEEN THE GOM AND THE GOS WITH REGARD TO THE WEAPON SYSTEM AND THE MISSILE DESTINED FOR MOROCCO'S DESCUBIERTA CLASS CORVETTE, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE ALBATROS WEAPON SYSTEM IS CAPABLE OF LAUNCHING THE SEA SPARROW MISSILE. CAPT AZIZ INDICATED THAT HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO CLEAR UP THE MATTER WITH SPANISH OFFICIALS BEFORE DECIDING HOW TO PROCEED.  
ANDERSON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NAVAL FORCES, MILITARY SALES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1978RABAT03843  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014